

December 17, 2007

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Knowles presiding and members Askren, Tucker, Rueger, and Curtis attending. Others attending were Attorney Funkhouser; Cecil Waters; Roy Maynard; Ron Neuman; Judy and Dave Whitten; Nancy Hoehn; Steve and MaryAnn Fuelling; Supt. Gray; Larry Horton; Ed and Glenda Adams; Chief Beloit; Dick Honebrink and Tom Hogan – Johnson Controls; Geneva James; Jerry Walden; Jim Powers; Paul Watzlavik; Bob Boerner; and Larry Williams.

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. She added if not, she entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Rueger moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Askren.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the report of the Water Superintendent.

Supt. Gray stated he has no report.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed to Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe.

Mayor Knowles asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Knowles stated on the Legal portion of the Agenda is an addendum to the JCI Performance Contract.

Mr. Honebrink approached the podium and stated he would first like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. He continued by stating they have made great strides towards the next phase, though they are not ready at this point to present the next phase package to the

Utility Board. He added some issues have come up they need to work on and hopefully soon they will be able to present the complete package (re: design approval). He stated there are some issues with government approval, etc., that they would like to clear up before they proceed.

Board agreed to table any further action.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Knowles stated if there were no further business, she entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Rueger moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

Rosemary L. Knowles
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Knowles presiding and members Askren, Tucker, Rueger, and Curtis attending. Others attending were Attorney Funkhouser; Cecil Waters; Roy Maynard; Ron Neuman; Judy and Dave Whitten; Nancy Hoehn; Steve and MaryAnn Fuelling; Supt. Gray; Larry Horton; Ed and Glenda Adams; Chief Beloit; Dick Honebrink and Tom Hogan – Johnson Controls; Geneva James; Jerry Walden; Jim Powers; Paul Watzlavik; Bob Boerner; Larry Williams; and arriving during the meeting, Ann Blackburn and Sis Claxton.

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. She added if not, she entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Ann Blackburn and Sis Claxton arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Mayor Knowles stated Comm. Epison is ill and asked if there were any questions concerning Street & Lights ?

There were none.

Chief Belloat stated he has no Police report.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.

Mayor Knowles stated Chief Reese is also ill this evening and asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairman Tucker stated he has no report.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed to Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe.

Mayor Knowles asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied she has received a small advance from the County Auditor, though not enough of one to help out the Park Department. She stated they have \$120,000 in temporary loans, and only received an advance of \$30,000. Their loans will be paid back by the General Fund and once the Park has received their full settlement, they will then pay back the General Fund.

Mayor Knowles stated the first item on the Legal portion of the Agenda is the final reading on the Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the COIT, Local Road & Street, CCIF, and State Gaming Funds.

Councilman Rueger moved the ordinance pass final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Tucker – yes; Rueger – yes;

Curtis – yes.

Mayor Knowles stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 07-25.

Mayor Knowles stated the next item is a Resolution to Transfer in the General, P/Rec, MVHF, and State Gaming Funds.

Councilman Rueger moved the Resolution pass. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Tucker – yes; Rueger – yes;

Curtis – yes.

Mayor Knowles stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 07-26.

Mayor Knowles stated the next item for consideration is a possible first reading on an Ordinance of Additional Appropriations RE: EDC Request of \$2,500.00 one time payment, per the last meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated Attorney Higgins was working on that ordinance and since she is not present this evening, they need to table this.

Ordinance was tabled.

Mayor Knowles stated the final item is an Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Mount Vernon and the Posey County Solid Waste Management District concerning a unified dental plan. She stated this is the same thing the City did with Cloverleaf and the Library in reference to the health insurance; it will allow the SWMD to be on the City's dental plan, at no cost to the City. She added Attorney Funkhouser has looked over the agreement for the City, Councilman Tucker is on the Solid Waste Board, and Hank Hudson drew up the Agreement. She added again, this is no cost to the City, only allowing them to received dental coverage on the City's plan.

Councilman Curtis stated in other words, the City is offering them the opportunity for dental coverage.

Mayor Knowles agreed and added it had been cost prohibitive to them before.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Agreement be approved. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Tucker – yes; Rueger – yes;

Curtis – yes.

Mayor Knowles stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

Judy Whitten approached the podium and stated she appreciates everything Mayor Knowles has done in the past four years; she has opened a door to a room full of life that hopefully everyone will walk through. She then stated she does have a question – at the last meeting it was discussed that there needs to be a master contract signed with INDOT concerning the \$1M grant and she wondered when that would take place.

Mayor Knowles replied agreed there is a master contract that needs signed on the \$1M grant and Mrs. Peerman has tried several times to get in contact with Mr. Tucker since the last meeting but she has heard nothing back. She added she did receive a letter from Mr. Tucker's attorney also asking for a meeting, so, it seems they need to set a date. She stated Mr. Tucker was also asking about hers and Mrs. Peerman's computer passwords – those are theirs only, they will have to get their own.

Councilman Tucker stated he has no idea when they could get together, though this week is pretty clear for him, though Attorney Higgins will not be available. He added he does want to get with Mayor Knowles on some of the finances involved with these grants and projects.

Mayor Knowles stated she has some things for him that Attorney Higgins had questioned in her letter and she can give them to him to get to her, though the financials go through Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe.

Councilman Tucker replied he just wanted to be updated and have a little sit down with the Mayor and Attorney Funkhouser.

Mayor Knowles stated Attorney Funkhouser is not involved in the day to day operations, he is too expensive.

Councilman Tucker questioned available dates for a meeting.

Mayor Knowles stated Tuesday or Wednesday works for her.

Councilman Tucker asked if there were any times that were better ?

Mayor Knowles replied not really.

Councilman Tucker stated tomorrow is out for him but he will call her secretary tomorrow.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Knowles stated under Old Business, at the last meeting they had discussed using land as part of a match in matching grants. She stated Green 3 says you CAN use land as match money.

Councilman Tucker added he found that out as well, as he also met with Green 3. He stated land can be used but it is best if the City does not own the land, it is better to get it gifted. He added if the land is owned first, there could be a problem there.

Mayor Knowles stated she had mentioned this before, but it all boils down to if INDOT would allow the land to be used as the match. She just wanted to clear that up.

Councilman Tucker added the bottom line is they need to go slow on this so the city does not end up in a money crunch.

Mayor Knowles stated Consolidated Grain & Barge is wanting to move forward more quickly on this, and she also feels it is important to do so. She added there could also be tax write offs for CGB.

Councilman Tucker agreed it is important, but on the other hand, CGB is probably ready to “unload” the silos due to the asbestos.

Mayor Knowles stated during Phase 1 it was discovered that a Phase 2 was not needed because the only asbestos involving the silos is in the silver paint on the outside of them. She added the City could get a Brownfield Grant to demolish them, but most of those grants are only around \$300,000 and the City would have to come up with the rest, which could run, total, around \$700,000 for demolition.

Councilman Tucker stated he has no objections, just the timing right now isn’t good. He added they may have an issue with the budgets for 2008 as the City kept them at 5% and the State says they will not approve any budget over 3%.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any New Business ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated the Council has a letter from the Area Plan Commission asking for their appointment for 2008.

Councilman Tucker moved incoming 3rd District Councilwoman Nancy Hoehn be placed on the APC Board. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles stated she was notified today the City was awarded \$50,000 for a master/comprehensive plan for the downtown, of which the City will have a small match. She added the County was also awarded as well \$100,000 for the same thing.

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Tucker stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilman Rueger stated he has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he has been receiving more calls on the train, it is getting worse. He added as a matter of fact, the other night, it was like a symphony out there. He stated he will get in contact with Robbie Buchanan with the railroad, though he realizes Attorney Funkhouser has looked into this and the City really has no options.

Attorney Funkhouser agreed and added they are federally regulated.

Councilman Curtis stated he will give Mr. Buchanan a call anyway.

Mayor Knowles stated she would like the citizens of Mt. Vernon to know that she has greatly appreciated being Mayor and she has enjoyed it, for the most part. She added it has been challenging, rewarding, and the hardest job she has ever had. She then stated she will never forget it. She added she has appreciated all of the help she has gotten from everyone, the Department Heads, the elected officials, and Clerk-Treasurer’s Office. She

stated if she can ever be of any service or help to anyone all they need to do is call. She then stated if there were no further business, she entertains a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Rueger.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

Rosemary L. Knowles
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer